

Deborah Heim
Tax Collector

Town of Monroe



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I am currently the Tax Collector for the Town of Monroe an elected position. I was an elected tax collector for 10 years (1990-2000) and an appointed tax collector for 18 years 200-2018). I am also a certified tax collector I am here to oppose bill #HB7192.

Having an appointed tax collector does not guarantee the tax collector is more professional or qualified. The tax collector will have political influence by the governing body. The governing board can dictate what the tax collector can and cannot do. Example an appoint tax collector may be instructed do strict foreclosures at a huge cost to the already burden taxpayer, when the elected tax collector would do a tax sale at a less burdensome cost. Also giving the taxpayer time to get financing.

The cost factor of an elected tax collector versus appointed. Historically appointed collectors salary are a lot higher than elected. Unions will try to take this opportunity to make these union positions. Increasing cost on benefits to the towns.

Elected collectors answer to the town's people, causing better customer service.

This would open Charter changes to the towns affected. The additional cost to the town's.

With the consolidation of the Assessor and collector's office, it is imperative that there is a check and balances in place. If an error occurs, the other office is able to pick it up and question the change. This does not give one individual total control. This would be an auditor's worst nightmare.

The Town of Monroe did have a regional health department; when it dissolved, the town explore other communities to join. The outcry from our residents were that they did not want to travel to other towns to get the permits. The town did a cost analysis and by doing it locally, it was more cost effective. The town's people did not have to travel to get their permits and inspections done quickly.

We find that when a resident can put a face and a smile with the person they are dealing with it is so much easier to have their problems solved.

I would suggest before any major changes regarding town's consolidation that there is an exploratory committee to find out what the major impacts and implications that this would cause the towns. I would hope you would include all departments involved on this committee.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Heim

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